

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
WALTER J. PATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SPRING 2003

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Shrewsbury Public Schools, in partnership with the community, will provide students with the skills and knowledge for the 21st century, an appreciation of our democratic tradition, and the desire to continue to learn throughout life.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Walter J. Paton School is a respectful community dedicated to nurturing the natural curiosities and creative abilities of its children. Paton provides its students with the academic and interpersonal building blocks necessary to become lifelong learners in our changing world. Every member of the Paton community is empowered to take responsibility to reach her or his potential.

WALTER J. PATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
SPRING 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page(s) Number (s)
Part I Signature Page	3
Part II Demographics	4 – 5
Part III School Highlights	6
 Summary of School Improvement Plan	7
Part IV Review of Current Year (2002 – 2003)	8 – 24
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	
Professional Development	
Respectful Community	
School Space	
Part V Plans for Subsequent Year (2003 – 2004)	25 –32
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	
Professional Development	
Respectful Community	
School Space	

WALTER J. PATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
SPRING 2003

Part I SIGNATURE PAGE

Name	Signature
Co-Chair: (Principal) Linda A. Ferguson	
Co-Chair: Glenn Johnson	
Ginny Ayers	
Erica Bodden	
Donna Ciarlante	
Wendy Bell	
Riitta Bolton	
Lauren Mitsis	
Ronald Sanguinet	

Anthony J. Bent, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

Date

WALTER J. PATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
SPRING 2003

Part II DEMOGRAPHICS
Enrollment and Class-size Information

Total Number of Students		413
Total Number of Classrooms		20
Grade/Description	Number of sections	Average Class Size
Half Day Kindergarten		
Full Day Kindergarten		
Grade 1	4	20.75
Grade 2	4	21.25
Grade 3	4	20.5
Grade 4	4	23
Grade 5	3	23.7
Grade 6		
Grade 7		
Grade 8		
Foreign Language		
Allied Arts		
Health		
Physical Education		
All Classes 9-12		
Core Classes 9-12		
Electives 9-12		
Grade 9		
Grade 10		
Grade 11		
Grade 12		

Paton School data are based on the October 1, 2002 student demographic report, which are submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Education.

WALTER J. PATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
SPRING 2003

Student Information

	Percentage	
	2002-03	2001-02
Native American	.1	.5
Black (Non-Hispanic)	1.7	2.2
Asian	6.3	5.5
Hispanic	2.0	1.9
White	89.2	89.9
Title I	16	16.1
Special Education	11.4	14.9
Free and Reduced Lunch	8.4	6.7
Limited English Proficient	.2	.5

Faculty and Staff Information

	Number	FTE
Administrators	1	1
Classroom Teachers	20	19
Instructional Specialists	19	5.1
Instructional Support	9	7.8
Instructional Aides	13	12.5 (7.5 Instructional, 5.0 Child Specific)
Secretaries	1	1

WALTER J. PATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
SPRING 2003

Part III

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the completed aspects of the school improvement plan, Paton experienced memorable moments in 2002-2003. The most memorable was the dedication of the Kyle Johnson Memorial and Paton Academe. This outdoor classroom was designed and created from the generous support of the community. Many businesses and individuals contributed their time and donated materials to make the plain, black top area behind the school a beautiful outdoor classroom.

Curricula highlights focused on a continuous theme to improve aspects of our literacy program and our practices. The Elementary Report Card pilot launched Paton efforts to develop rubrics and collect exemplars. We continued to use aspects of differentiated instruction and writing across the curriculum with aspects of the John Collins Writing program.

Professional development featured visits from local author Andrew Clements. His inspirational visit was organized by Kristine Gustafson and Riitta Bolton. He consulted with the staff and motivated the students to read and write about various characters from his books. We also had Gary Chadwell consult with the staff about aspects of writing.

Our efforts to sustain our responsive community environment featured enrichment programs, community gatherings, business partnerships (BJs Wholesale Club, Westborough Savings Bank, Spags, and Verizon) and social outreach endeavors. Community Service Learning and PTO Outreach groups worked together to sponsor such events as creating toiletry bags for the guests of Veterans' Homeless Shelter, Belonging Bags for foster children, collecting food for local food pantry, and weekly visits to Shrewsbury Nursing Home.

The 2002 –2003 school year was a productive one. We look forward to 2003-2004, as we continue to emphasize the dynamics of a respectful learning community.

WALTER J. PATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
SPRING 2003

School Improvement Plan Goals' Summary for 2003-2004

1. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
 - A. Address student needs in language arts and mathematics based on data driven analysis from standardized assessments (e.g. making inferences, drawing conclusions, poetry and non-fiction, writing across the curriculum (Chadwell), fractions, time, money, decimals, coordinate points)
 - B. Review and implement newly established elementary report card.
 - C. Continue to develop consistent practices in the homework policy. (e.g. parent survey, teacher assignments-time, type of assignments, purpose of homework, and consistency)
 - D. Continue to build the level book assortment.
 - E. Address the changes in the Fourth Grade Social Studies Curriculum with will focus on North America and Central America, Geography
 - F. Continue to build consistency in requested classroom supply lists.
2. Professional Development
 - A. Continue to use available resources to analyze, expand, and refine professional knowledge and skills. (e.g. Gary Chadwell, Kathy Apfel)
 - B. Analyze and refine the structure of teacher professional development opportunities.
 - C. Implement a program to promote the professional development for Paton's instructional aides and building substitute.
3. Respectful Community
 - A. Continue to integrate the tenets of the Social Competency Program, Responsive Classroom, into classroom routines and management and into school wide practices.
 - B. Refine and expand Paton's Community Service Learning Program
 - C. Continue to expand the school to home connections by communicating to parents and guardians about teaching and learning.
4. School Space
 - A. Continue to facilitate safe traffic patterns for morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.
 - B. Assure maximum use of the physical plant.
 - C. Continue to actively support PTO beautification efforts